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General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda items 45, 53 and 55

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Identical letters dated 28 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

On 27 July 2005 the Security Council held its closed meeting on the agenda item "The situation in Georgia".

Georgia is our immediate neighbour and the situation in Georgia has direct relevance to the regional security and stability in the South Caucasus. Naturally, this matter is of direct interest for Azerbaijan. Taking this into account, the delegation of Azerbaijan requested the Greek presidency of the Security Council to invite it to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council. Unfortunately, the legitimate request of Azerbaijan was declined without any reasonable justification or explanation, whereas identical requests by other Member States were accepted.

It goes without saying that this action is completely inconsistent and in contradiction to the Security Council practice. On 4 May 2005, the delegation of Azerbaijan, upon the invitation by the Danish presidency, took part in the consideration of the same item at a closed meeting of the Security Council (see S/PV.5174).

One should ask, why did this happen and what was the reason? Was it a manifestation of double standards, lack of experience, abuse of authority or shortage of institutional memory?

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This incident causes great disappointment and indignation, especially at this very crucial stage of the reform of the Security Council.

Will this serve the purposes of "comprehensive reform of the Security Council to make it more broadly representative, more efficient and more transparent so as to enhance the legitimacy of its decisions and its effectiveness"?[1]

Is this arbitrariness "a practical implementation" of paragraph 127 of the revised draft outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005 submitted by the President of the General Assembly:

> "We recommend that the Security Council adapt its working methods so as to increase the involvement of States not members of the Security Council in its work, enhance its accountability to the membership and increase the transparency of its work"?[2]

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter urgently circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 45, 53 and 55 of the agenda of its fifty-ninth session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative

[1] A/59/HLPM/CRP.1/Rev.1, para. 126.
[2] Ibid., para. 127.